

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01059 171022Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00
CIAE-00 /026 W

-----064319 171029Z /16-17

R 152145Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5707
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 2438

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1059

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SAN JOSE PREVIOUSLY OMITTED AS ADDEE)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, NU, CS, PN
SUBJECT: CONCERN OVER GUERRILLA ATTACKS FROM COSTA RICA ON
NICARAGUA

REF: SAN JOSE 666

SUMMARY: WE HAVE LOOKED INTO ODUBER'S ALLEGATION (REFTTEL)
THAT MONEY FOR ARMS FOR GUERRILLAS IN NICARAGUA HAS BEEN
COMING FROM TORRIJOS. WE DOUBT IT. END SUMMARY

1. TORRIJOS HAS LONG HELD A DISTASTE FOR SOMOZA AND HIS
REGIME. IN THE GOVERNMENT-GUIDED LOCAL MEDIA HERE, TORRIJOS'
SYMPATHY WITH THE NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION IS A GIVEN.

2. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN NOTHING TO INDICATE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 01059 171022Z

THAT TORRIJOS MIGHT HAVE GONE BEYOND MORAL TO FINANCIAL
SUPPORT. FIRST, HE HAS LITTLE BEYOND TOKEN AMOUNTS OF MONEY THAT
HE COULD GIVE--HIS OWN NATIONAL GUARD AND HIS WHOLE
GOVERNMENT ARE BADLY STRAPPED FOR CASH. MOREOVER, WE
DOUBT THAT HE COULD DISPOSE OF WHAT MONEY HE HAS, IN
THIS RATHER LEAKY GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY, WITHOUT IT
BECOMING KNOWN IN PLACES WHERE THE USG COULD FIND OUT

ABOUT IT. AND NONE OF THE USG INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES
HERE, WHICH HAVE LOOKED FOR ANY INDICATION OF SOME
SUCH ACTIVITY SINCE RECEIPT OF REFTEL, HAS BEEN ABLE
TO FIND ANYTHING TO INDICATE THAT SOMETHING OF THIS
SORT IS HAPPENING.

3. USE OF TORRIJOS AND PANAMA AS A CHANNEL FOR SOMEONE
ELSE'S MONEY--E.G., CAP'S--MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT MORE
LIKELY. WE DEFER TO CARACAS AS TO THE CHANCE CAP IS
INVOLVED AS ODUBER ALLEGES. BUT AGAIN, IT IS UNLIKELY
(ALTHOUGH NOT IMPOSSIBLE) THAT THIS WOULD BE GOING ON
WITHOUT SOME PART OF THE USG HERE LEARNING OF IT.

4. IN A TALK WITH THE AMBASSADOR LAST WEEK, TORRIJOS
SAID HE WAS INCLINED EMOTIONALLY TO HELP THE OPPOSITION
AGAINST SOMOZA. BUT HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD NEVER DO
SO WITHOUT KNOWING THAT THE U.S. APPROVED. DURING A
CONVERSATION ON FEBRUARY 10, COMUSMILGROUP/PANAMA
MENTIONED TO NATIONAL GUARD DEPUTY COMMANDER GARCIA
THE POSSIBILITY THAT NICARAGUAN GUERRILLAS MIGHT BE
RECEIVING CONCRETE ASSISTANCE FROM GOVERNMENTS IN THE
AREA. GARCIA EMPHATICALLY DENIED THAT ANY SUCH SUPPORT,
FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL, MIGHT BE COMING FROM THIS GOV-
ERNMENT.

5. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO SAY WE ARE 100 PERCENT CERTAIN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PANAMA 01059 171022Z

THAT ODUBER IS MISTAKEN. BUT BASED ON THE TOTAL ABSENCE
OF ANY POSITIVE INFORMATION TO INDICATE THAT IT IS
HAPPENING, AND ON THE IMPLAUSIBILITY OF THE IDEA THAT
TORRIJOS WOULD HAVE BOTH THE MEANS AND THE INTEREST
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN, WE BELIEVE ODUBER'S VIEW MUST BE
CONSIDERED WRONG UNTIL SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
EMERGES WHICH MIGHT SUGGEST OTHERWISE.
JORDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, ALLEGATIONS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA01059
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780182-0678, D780073-0211
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780252/aaaabsfo.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 80e3f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 SAN JOSE 666
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3587281
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONCERN OVER GUERRILLA ATTACKS FROM COSTA RICA ON NICARAGUA
TAGS: PINS, NU, CS, PN, (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/80e3f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014